

LESSON

39

PRACTICE WORKSHEET B

COPYMASTER

Author's Perspective

Directions: Read the boxed excerpt from the autobiography of Helen Keller. Then answer the questions that follow.

The most important day I remember in all my life is the one on which my teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan, came to me. I am filled with wonder when I consider the immeasurable contrasts between the two lives which it connects. It was the third of March 1887, three months before I was seven years old.

On the afternoon of that eventful day, I stood on the porch, wondering, expectant. I guessed vaguely from my mother's signs and from the hurrying to and fro in the house that something unusual was about to happen, so I went to the door and waited on the steps. The afternoon sun penetrated the mass of honeysuckle that covered the porch, and fell on my upturned face. My fingers lingered almost unconsciously on the familiar leaves and blossoms which had just come forth to greet the sweet southern spring, I did not know what the future held for me.

Have you ever been at sea in a dense fog, when it seemed as if darkness shut you in, and the great ship, tense and anxious, groped her way toward the shore and you waited with beating heart for something to happen? I was like that ship before my education began, only I was without compass or sounding-line, and had no way of knowing how near the harbor was. "Light! Give me light!" was the wordless cry of my soul, and the light of love shone on me in that very hour.

—Helen Keller

1. What important event does Helen Keller describe in this excerpt?

2. List at least *four* phrases the author uses to express her feelings about this event.

3. How would you describe the author's tone—her attitude toward her topic?

4. In *one* sentence, describe the author's perspective on this event.

